

REMARKS

In the present Office Action made Final, the Examiner indicated that claim 14 would be allowable if it is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which it depends. In addition, claims 61 and 62 have been found allowable on the merits. Accordingly, the claims have been amended to place them in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 6, and 14 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 38 to 60 have been previously canceled. Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 13, 15 to 37, 62, 63, and newly presented claims 63 to 70 remain for consideration on the merits.

New dependent claims 63 to 70 are ultimately dependent upon allowed claim 61. Applicants respectfully prevail upon the Examiner's discretionary authority to enter the newly presented claims. It is submitted that no new issues are raised with the presentation of these claims as they are ultimately dependent upon an allowed independent claim. Moreover, the subject matter set forth in new claims 63 to 70 has always been before the Examiner in that they are substantially identical (with minor clarity changes) to original claims 2 to 19, respectively.

The dependent claim 14 has been rewritten in independent format by incorporating its subject matter into independent claim 3.

The dependency of claim 2 has been changed to claim 3 and the Markush language has been simplified.

Claims 15, 18, and 19 have been amended to clarify that the claimed water-dispersibility enhancing compound is incorporated into the prepolymer as set forth in paragraph [0088] of the present specification.

Claim 16 has been amended to simplify the Markush language and to correct a typographical error.

Claim 17 has been amended to simplify the Markush language.

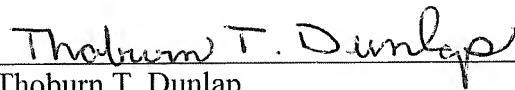
The dependency of claim 21 has been changed from claim 3 to claim 31. Applicant desires to claim an embodiment directed to a method for crosslinking a polyurethane as opposed to an embodiment directed to a method of crosslinking a polyurethane prepolymer. As is well known polyurethane prepolymers form

polyurethanes (see present Abstract) by chain extension. Support for "crosslinked polyurethane" formation at or subsequent to chain extension is inherent from the disclosure at paragraph [0099] wherein it is disclosed that crosslinking may be accomplished...during the dispersing stage or later...

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, it is submitted that the instantly claimed subject matter is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 2 to 5, 7 to 13, 15 to 37, 61, 62, and new claims 63 to 70 is earnestly solicited.

If any minor issues remain that can be resolved via a telephonic conference, please feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,


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